

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT State Office 233A Main Post Office Building Phoenix, Arizona

April 11, 1955

Commanding Officer

Fort Huachuca, Arizona

Dear Sir:

By letter dated April 5 addressed to your office, I requested information concerning the possibilities that the Army may in the near future recapture for use all of the lands formerly included in the Fort Huachuca Artillery Range which adjoins and lies east and north of the original Fort Huachuca Military Reservation.

This office has received a considerable number of applications under the Small Tract Act of June 1, 1938 (52 Stat. 609), as amended, for 5-acre homesites on the  $N_2^1$  sec. 9, T. 21 S., R. 20 E., G&SRM. This land, as well as sec. 4 in this township, although lying within the boundaries of the former artillery range, is subject to disposal applications under the public land laws.

An examination of the area to determine its suitability for small tract disposal was made by Valuation Engineer D. F. Reed of this office on March 31, 1955. He discussed the matter with Colonel C. R. Albright, Major H. V. Morrill and Major J. A. Evans of your staff. It is our understanding that housing for civilian employees of the Army at Fort Huachuca has become a serious problem and that disposal of lands under the Small Tract Act to individuals might prove to be at least a partial solution. Under the Small Tract Act, individuals are permitted to lease, ordinarily with option to purchase, not more than 5 acres of land for homesite use. It is the opinion of our examiner that  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -acre tracts would be of proper size in the area above mentioned. These tracts would be 330 ft. by 330 ft. in dimension.

Colonel Albright advised Mr. Reed that there would probably be no objection on the part of your office to classification for small tract purposes of the  $W_2^{\frac{1}{2}}SW_4^{\frac{1}{4}}$ ,  $SW_4^{\frac{1}{4}}NW_4^{\frac{1}{4}}$  sec. 4, and  $W_2^{\frac{1}{2}}NW_4^{\frac{1}{4}}$  sec. 9, T. 21 S., R. 20 E. This would provide 80  $2\frac{1}{2}$ —acre homesites. Colonel Albright stated that, in his opinion, classification of any of the remaining area in secs. 4 and 9 would be objectionable due to interference with artillery practice.

I would appreciate your consideration of this matter and confirmation of the information obtained by Mr. Reed if you concur.

Very truly yours,

E. I. Rowland State Supervisor

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